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Nearly 60 and living with a brain injury, Johnny Imgrund endured years of cruel jokes at the Mall of America

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OFFICE HOURS Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ISSN 0744-0456. City Pages is published weekly by Star Tribune Media Company, LLC. City Pages is located at 650 3rd Ave. S., Ste. 1300, Minneapolis, MN 55488. City Pages is available free of charge, limited to one copy per reader. Additional copies of the current issue may be purchased at the City Pages office for \$1, payable in advance. No person may, without prior written permission of City Pages, take more than one copy of each City Pages weekly issue. Subscriptions are available for \$100 per year. Subscription orders must include check or money order payable to City Pages, and should be mailed to City Pages Subscriptions, 650 3rd Ave. S., Ste. 1300, Minneapolis, MN 55488. Periodicals postage paid at Minneapolis, Minnesota. Postmaster: Send address changes to City Pages, 650 3rd Ave. S., Ste. 1300, Minneapolis, MN 55488.

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THE SHORTLIST

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MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

THE STAT SHEET

49

Number of people who've recently become sick after swimming in Lake Nokomis, causing its beaches to close for the summer

\$8.9 million

Amount Minnesota's police collected in forfeitures last year, up 18 percent from the year before

5.5%

The average rent increase in the Twin Cities over the past 12 months

x10

How much more the U.S. spends on fossil fuel subsidies than education

"Wait, you mean *the* Ted Nugent? The guy who shit his pants to dodge the draft? The guy whose biggest rock anthem is about having sex with a little girl? *That* Ted Nugent?"

Reader Jason Schmucker responds to "Ted Nugent posts photo of Twin Cities drag nun and conservatives freak," at citypages.com.

VILLAINOUS VIDEO GAMES

THERE HAVE BEEN 255 mass shootings in the U.S. so far this year. To once again avoid doing anything about them, Republicans are hoping you'll turn your attention to an alternative villain: violent video games.

There has been much research showing a definitive link between more lenient gun laws and more murders and suicides. And zero research showing there's any link between murder and video games. Yet learned study is not among the GOP's strong suits.

Take Japan, where the average person spends more money on games than the average American, but gun ownership is less than 1 percent of the U.S. rate. The countries' annual gun deaths: U.S. 400,000, Japan 10.

POPULAR STORIES

AT CITYPAGES.COM

Report: **ARMED MAN** stakes out south Minneapolis neighborhood

Holy shit look at this Minnesota **DEER**

Minnesota Supreme Court declares your **RECTUM** a safe space

NEW YORK TIMES EDITOR DEMOTED after claiming Minneapolis not part of Midwest

LGBTQ GROUP ENDORSES TRUMP

Despite a record of hostility, queer conservatives offer their support to the president

In 2016, even as many prominent members of the “never Trump” crowd capitulated, the Log Cabin Republicans drew a line in the sand. The queer conservative organization declined to endorse their party’s candidate after giving the nod to Mitt Romney in 2012 and John McCain in 2008. Not because Trump had been outspokenly homophobic, but because he was unpredictable.

Even as he made “overtures” to the “LGBTQ community,” the 2016 announcement read, he was surrounding himself with advisors with strong anti-queer records—to say nothing of Mike Pence. He also supported “religious discrimination” legislation that would allow businesses to refuse gay and trans people service because

they religiously don’t agree people like them should exist.

The Log Cabin crowd thought it was too risky to bet on Trump. Many would argue they were right.

Since then, Trump has reinstated a ban on trans troops serving in the military, banned flying pride flags over U.S. embassies, and sided with a Colorado baker who refused to do business with a gay couple.

Those are just the high-profile issues. He’s scaled back regulations so health care providers can refuse to treat queer or trans patients. He ended a policy of giving visas to same-sex partners of diplomats stationed at the United Nations. And earlier this month, we also saw moves to allow government contractors to fire queer or trans workers for “religious reasons.”



ASSOCIATED PRESS - AP

But Log Cabiners nevertheless reversed their 2016 decision, endorsing Trump for 2020.

“Since taking office, President Trump has followed through on many of his commitments to the United States, including taking bold actions to the benefit of the LGBTQ community,” Chair Robert Kabel and Vice Chair Jill Homan wrote in a Washington Post editorial. That included committing to “end the spread of HIV/AIDS in 10 years,” and using “the United States’ outsize global influence” to push other countries to decriminalize homosexuality.

Queers have also benefited from the president’s tax cuts and his “hard line on foreign policy,” they wrote.

The Minnesota chapter of the Log Cabiners didn’t respond to interview requests, so it’s hard to say how the locals feel. But the rest of the internet isn’t exactly quiet. Critics argue that it takes a certain kind of queer person to vote for Trump: the kind too wealthy, white, male, or cis to be hurt by anything he’s done, and who doesn’t care if others will be. As one pointed out, “gays for Trump” is akin to “trees for axes.”

—HANNAH JONES

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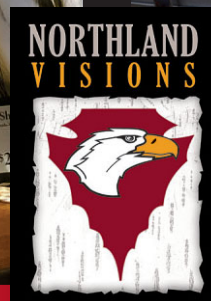
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COURTESY OF JOHNNY IMGRUND

'OLD MAN JOHNNY'

Fifty-nine-year-old Johnny Imgrund has worked in restaurants all his life.

In northern California, he edited a dining guide that once earned a nod of respect from retired Star Tribune restaurant critic Jeremy Iggers. After he moved to the Twin Cities in 2000, he served tables and kept bar at places like the Grand Café, King's Wine Bar, and Pane Vino Dolce —small, high-rent enterprises focused on fine food and wine.

Five years ago, Imgrund had an accident, the circumstances of which he asked to keep private, and suffered a traumatic brain injury. He spent six weeks recuperating at Hennepin County Medical Center, underwent counseling and physical therapy, and shed 65 pounds. He emerged with an essential tremor in his left hand and a slightly uneven gait.

Friends encouraged Imgrund to apply for disability. He lived alone in Loring Park, had always survived by the merits of his own wits, and loathed the label. He tried waiting tables at the Normandy Hotel. Others had to make accommodations. It wasn't his style.

In the fall of 2016, Imgrund got a job at VomFASS, a liqueur, wine, and spirit boutique for the well-to-do on the third floor of the Mall of America. Retail was a new world, but Imgrund knew the wares. He sold them enthusiastically, staying on his feet eight hours a shift.

But Imgrund also faced a new problem, something he'd never dealt with before. The 29-year-old assistant manager, Lizzie Bellman, needed him constantly about his age.

According to former VomFASS employees, Bellman often worked with phone in hand, filming videos for social media and reading aloud insults she'd written online about other people. Occasionally she'd engulf co-workers in unsolicited hugs and hold them in place for selfies.

In an Instagram photo, Bellman pressed her face against Imgrund's chest as he

Johnny Imgrund was the only VomFASS employee assigned a nickname by management.

cracked an uneasy, thin-lipped smile. "My favorite coworker turned like 90 today. Proud of him for still being alive!" she wrote.

Another close-up of her hand clutching Imgrund's is subtitled, "My old man is my fav."

Once Imgrund brought up visiting his cardiologist and being given a "big decision to make." Bellman commented, "Is the choice on when to pull the plug?"

She filmed him eating lunch on his break. In one video, she narrated from behind the camera, "There he is, just back there eating his bag of mixed nuts, the weird old person that he is. Coworkers are special."

Bellman was also fascinated with exposing Imgrund's sexual orientation, which he considered nobody's business.

One night Imgrund turned down her offer of a ride home. Bellman quipped, in front of new hires, that he must have wanted to take the light rail to the Gay 90's.

"Can we get matching tattoos of this?" she texted him around Christmas, along with a badly drawn tattoo of two men with their penises entwined. She followed up with a meme of a naked Santa Claus captioned, "You better not scream, you better not cry, cause Santa is goin' in dry!"

"I think we need to schedule a meeting with the staff psychologist, Lizzie," Imgrund responded, according to screenshots of the exchange.

Despite everything, Imgrund didn't complain to the store's owner, Tamra Kramer. Nor did he confide in the office manager, Kristi Elder Szweczyk, Kramer's daughter. Bellman was a family friend. Besides, the sexual texts were too embarrassing to acknowledge, Imgrund says.

In 2017, Bellman put a label over Imgrund's employee coat hook reading, "Old Man Johnny." His hook was adjacent to that of the owner's. Imgrund believed it should have been obvious to Kramer and Elder Szweczyk that it wasn't appropri-

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These enthusiasts rely on CBD, but when many first start out in the space they have questions around the products like what dosage is proper, what form of CBD is best for their needs, and other considerations.

The question that often presses most urgently on those interested in CBD is perhaps more simple and intuitive: Where can I find the best CBD oil near me?

Here's a quick and easy guide to help Minnesota residents figure out where to get the best expertise and product selection when dipping their toes into the CBD industry.

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The Uptown neighborhood of Minneapolis is where you can find the flagship location of Nothing But Hemp, a leader in Minnesota's CBD industry and purveyor of award-winning, lab-tested CBD.

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For more information, head to 844 Grand Avenue, Saint Paul MN 55105

EAST METRO SUBURBS

If you live in the East suburbs of the metro area and know your usual CBD fare, your best bet may be to stop in to the Maplewood Mall on White Bear Avenue.

On the first floor of the mall, Nothing But Hemp sells selections from its award-winning brands and products lines, in a stop-and-shop kiosk format. All the lab-tested, industry-leading products are there as you've come to expect them, all in an accessible and convenient manner.

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ate. He admits a part of him wanted to wait and see how long it would take for them to act.

He hung his VomFASS apron there nearly every day of the 58th year of his life. In the meantime, he sent his resume to other businesses. But no one ever offered an alternative job.

"I kept my head down and my mouth shut because I needed a job. There is not a long line of employers looking for a nearly 60-year-old with a brain injury."

'AND THEN THE NESTLINGS PECK IT TO DEATH'

There were days when Johnny Imgrund had to force himself to enter VomFASS.

He gained weight, suffered from insomnia and depression, and developed problems with his digestion. For the first time in his life, he began taking medicine for anxiety. The stress amplified the tremor in his hand.

Imgrund's family, friends, co-workers, and doctors saw things more objectively.

Dr. Laura Kotowski of Hennepin County Medical Center believed Imgrund's job endangered his health. She ordered him to observe an anti-inflammatory diet, which included eating healthfully. But after Bellman ridiculed him

while he ate lunch, he stopped eating at work altogether.

HCMC's Dr. Stefanie Stevenson agreed that the chronic stress Imgrund faced at work threatened his physical and mental health.

Now and then, various VomFASS employees commiserated with Imgrund in emails and text messages, sharing their own observations.

One former co-worker, who asked to remain anonymous for fear of retaliation, said she once overheard employees discussing how the store should avoid playing classical music while Imgrund worked because it would slow him down even more. VomFASS was like high school, according to the co-worker.

"I just never understood why they were so derisive toward Johnny because he has this lifetime of experience and he was so professional, and he was kind of a Steady Eddie," she says. "This was the attitude that was really sickening. It was like of an injured little bird, and then the nestlings peck it to death because it was the weak one."

Denise Maples, Imgrund's sister who lives in Alaska, worried that the bullying damaged her brother's self-worth and made it more difficult for him to manage his recovery. She encouraged him to move in with her.

His friend Tim Johnson suggested he lawyer up. Johnson is an account manager for the wholesale wine vender Paustis & Sons, and got to know Imgrund from his days as a waiter. The photos and video Imgrund shared made Johnson's blood boil. Yet Imgrund was unwilling.

"Here's my take on it: Johnny Imgrund thinks he can change people's behavior," Johnson says.

"I've never met this manager person, but I just know that John's way more intelligent than she is, so it had to be pretty hard for him to take the kind of mistreatment that he was receiving from her. But John always wants to think the best of people regardless of their circumstances. I think he thought they should just apologize to him."

'KICK ME'

When no apology came by last September, Imgrund resigned in a terse email. He thanked his managers and requested a reference letter.

But he had no luck finding a retail job elsewhere. In need of money, he rescinded his resignation before his two weeks' notice was up, and asked to stay on.

Kristi Elder Szewczyk, the office manager, took him up on the offer. She asked why he wanted to quit in the first place.

Imgrund took the opportunity to voice his frustrations. Yet he had difficulty summarizing all the reasons he'd bottled up over two years.

In an email to Elder Szewczyk and owner Kramer, he instead painted a culture in which everything he did—from washing the absinthe fountain, to pouring samples for customers, to placing his backpack on a table where employees put their purses—was second-guessed and judged, as though "my every instinct is off-base, my facts wrong, my world view katywampus."

He didn't complain specifically about Lizzie Bellman. Nor did he invoke the word "ageism." He was determined to keep his job.

Ultimately, Imgrund lasted just five more months. Last January, he had an epiphany: He couldn't look at the "Old Man Johnny" name tag for another year.

Kramer had recently accused him of stealing a cleaning product—not knowing he'd brought it in himself for everyone to use—and teased him about wearing a "kick me" sign on his back.

It was just one example of the nagging abuse that seemed reserved for him, Imgrund told Elder Szewczyk in his second resignation letter.

Shortly thereafter, the name tag vanished and Bellman texted an apology.



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"I didn't know you didn't like the nickname," she wrote. "If I had, I would have never said it again or even the first time. I can't change what was said. But know it was never coming from any place other than love. It was meant to be endearing, and it clearly didn't come off that way. I'm really sorry."

They continued to work together for three more weeks. (Bellman didn't return multiple requests for comment.)

"I can assure you that as a female senior myself, and with several other senior employees on my staff, I have a deep appreciation for the value that experienced team members add to VomFASS," Kramer wrote in a statement. "I am committed to running my business with fairness, ethics and respect for diversity of all kinds."

'I SEE NO EVIDENCE OF MALICIOUS INTENT'

Johnny Imgrund left VomFASS at the end of January and filed for unemployment.

Though most people who quit their jobs aren't eligible for benefits, the law makes an exception for those subjected

to such hostility that it would have forced any reasonable worker to resign. Yet that only applies when the employer knew or should have known about the abuse.

The Department of Employment and Economic Development quickly approved Imgrund's application. VomFASS' unemployment tax rate may go up slightly, but the state would pay his benefits.

Tamra Kramer appealed.

In a statement to unemployment Judge Bonnie Bennett, she argued that while Imgrund resigned from VomFASS twice, he never provided a reason until after he was gone.

"I see no evidence of malicious intent toward John," Kramer said. "He didn't bring any concerns or complaints about co-workers' behaviors to me or my office manager in the 2+ years he worked here, and I had no opportunity to know that he was unhappy about certain behaviors, and no opportunity to coach individuals he claims caused him to feel harassed."

Everyone assumed that Imgrund and Lizzie Bellman were good friends who indulged in a mutual give and take, Kramer added. "The credibility of his claim is questionable."

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UNDER PRESSURE

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OCTOBER 24 • 6PM-10PM • THE MACHINE SHOP

Imgrund turned to Ben Meinen, a corporate representative of VomFASS USA. Meinen was sorry to hear of Imgrund's experiences, but could do nothing because the Mall of America store was independently owned.

Meanwhile, the Minnesota Department of Human Rights told Imgrund that it couldn't be considered age discrimination if VomFASS didn't subject other employees over 40 to the same harassment.

Ross Stadheim, a Halunen Law associate who handles workplace harassment cases, says that while Imgrund had strong evidence of ageism, he'd still face an uphill battle if he wanted to sue. He'd have a much stronger case if he'd reported his treatment to supervisors and they'd fired him, Stadheim says.

As door after door closed, Imgrund began to wonder whether society viewed him as a dinosaur, diminished, without feeling. "Some sniveling old dude who can't take a joke, an endearing nickname," he says. "There's a new acceptable prejudice in our culture. I can't buck the trend."

Unemployment was his only path forward. In a telephone hearing in unemployment court, Imgrund and Kramer sparred over who should have known better.

"You never specifically asked [Lizzie Bellman] to not call you 'Old Man?'" Kramer asked in one sitting.

"Let's say this, if it had been a different moniker, would I have said, 'Don't call me f—t, Lizzie?' Why would I need to state that, Tamra?"

The evidence was so extensive, and the dispute so entrenched, that one hearing wasn't enough. The proceedings had to be continued.

Weeks dripped by. Imgrund's resources dwindled. His health declined. He began to sell paintings and furniture out of his apartment to pay the rent. He also took stronger doses of his anxiety medicine, plus a new pill for insomnia. When the judge called for their second hearing, he'd passed out cold and missed his chance to question Kramer.

The judge ruled against him.

He had to beg for another chance. Though she wasn't obligated, the judge nevertheless agreed to hear him out. They re-convened August 8.

"I thought very highly of [John Imgrund] and certainly would not have ignored any information he brought to me about feeling uncomfortable," Kramer insisted. "I'm really sorry about it, but I can't do anything if I didn't know about it."

Kramer reiterated she was unaware that anyone had concerns about Bellman's professionalism until after Imgrund left VomFASS.

But Judge Bennett fixed upon an apparent contradiction. "You were aware of the nametag above Mr. Imgrund's coat hook?" she asked.

Kramer admitted she was.

And when Elder Szewczyk argued that she thought Imgrund was fine with his

supervisor touching him or pulling him into hugs, the judge pressed again.

"Let's cut to the chase, Ms. Elder. He had to take direction, didn't he?"

Elder Szewczyk admitted he did.

'FIGHT EVERY DAY'

On August 13, Judge Bennett approved his unemployment eligibility, finding that no reasonable person in Imgrund's place would have endured VomFASS.

"I'm shocked," Imgrund says. "Basically, I couldn't believe it, because things have not gone well for me this summer.

I called unemployment and made them speak the words to me because I needed to hear it from a human being."

Back pay will help Imgrund chip away at his bills. But he still plans to move to Alaska and reconnect with his sister. He flies out September 3.

Imgrund insists he has no desire to bring a lawsuit, and wants nothing from VomFASS other than it to vanish from his rearview mirror. He's resolved to go to the gym, eat better, get stronger.

There are still little interactions that remind Imgrund that his age is what people see first, and they have little reservation about saying something. At the market

around the corner from where he lives, the clerk bid him goodbye with an "All right, thanks, old man." A bus driver called him "Pops" the other day. He read an online think piece about Joe Biden's presidential prospects in which the primary argument was that Baby Boomers were an irredeemably terrible generation.

"It's something people in my age group fight every day," Imgrund says. "I think it translates into the workforce. When this sort of thing ever happens again, I need to be able to just say that I'm worth more than this. Rather than accept it as a truism, I need to accept it as a challenge." **LF**

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BY EMILY CASSEL

Sometimes, when you stop by the new and much buzzed-about restaurant in town, you're dressed to match the occasion. You've snapped at least a few full-length 'fit pics before you head out. You are, at the very least, not wearing a T-shirt advertising your favorite frozen food brand.

Other times... well. Other times, due to factors including (but not limited to) a late-summer heat wave, poorly timed laundry day, and general lack of care about your physical appearance, you don't look quite so put together. You might be wearing, say, a shirt with its sleeves cut off and a bright-yellow HEGGIES PIZZA logo on the front, paired with jorts that have worn down to more fray than denim.

This is the situation in which a certain City Pages food writer found herself earlier this month when dropping by Dué Focacceria for the first time. New to St. Paul's Macalester-Groveland neighborhood, Dué is the second restaurant from the husband-wife duo behind i.e. Italian Eatery, the—yes—Italian eatery on Minnehaha Parkway in south Minneapolis.

Eric and Vanessa Carrara's i.e. is a neighborhood spot, but one where reservations are certainly recommended, standout pastas are made in-house, and it's not uncommon to dine surrounded by families and friends for whom the occasion doubles as a birthday/anniversary/retirement celebration. It's not like you'll be made to borrow a clip-on if you show up in worn-out work clothes, but you'll probably feel more than a little out of place among the Modcloth-clad cuties at the table next to yours.

Dué, so called because it's Italian for "two," is a little more low-key—counter-service, seat-yourself, snag-your-own-silverware—and I'm equal parts relieved and charmed when both a bartender and a sandwich-maker are expressly stoked about the Heggies shirt. I tell the former I worried I might be a little underdressed, knowing the team that's behind this St. Paul newbie, and he laughs, sliding our drinks across the bar: "You're overdressed, if anything."

This is the first thing I like about Dué, though it won't be the last. The place is comfortably come-as-you-are—a true neighborhood restaurant, where on one visit we bump into a colleague and his wife and on another share a table and make small talk about sandwiches with a few folks who live nearby. It's a delightful little space, borrowing a bit from its Minneapolis sib-

LITTLE ITALY

Dué Focacceria is the neighborhood restaurant every neighborhood needs



ALMA GUZMAN

ling's farmhouse vibe. Here, though, it's rustic-meets-robots: You'll mull over the leather-bound menu as you wait your turn at a digital kiosk, then punch in the sandwiches, salads, and shareable platters that look most enticing to you. If you want, you can leave a phone number so you know when your order is ready, then simply swipe your credit card before sidling up to the bar to order beer, wine, or a cocktail.

Maybe the "Focacceria" thing gave it away, but it's easy to go full-on marathon-runner carbo-load here. Bread is hearty and comes with almost everything: It cradles the exceptional sandwiches, is a vessel for cheese or jam or meat on a number of shareable platters, and makes the base for the daily rotating, pre-prepared pizzas. It's also salty and squishy and airy in a way that means you won't feel overwhelmed by dough—just very, very full.

If you want to start by splitting a platter (and you should), we loved the smoked fresh fish (\$18), with olives, pickled veggies, and a lemon butter good enough to lick off the plate. A cool surprise here were the capers, which have been fried, turning them into puffy-crunchy pops of flavor—tiny, briny snacks almost unrecognizable from their uncooked iteration. The "Formaggio Box" (\$18) of Italian cheeses, house-made spreads, and sides was a similar delight, though it would have been nice to know exactly which cheeses we were trying.

Speaking of crunchy, perfect flavor bombs, do yourself a favor and order the octopus salad. Reasonably priced at just \$10, this generous serving of cephalopod arrives on a bed of couscous-like fregola pasta. It's finished with a sprinkle of pepperoni that's been baked or fried or *something*, that smoky alchemy making it into a crispy

topping that'll have you wondering why we ever normalized bacon crumbles instead.

If all you want is a sandwich (\$11 to \$14), we have to tell you it's hard to go wrong. That's the blessing/curse of starting with bread this good. The Carne is a slim little sammy that nonetheless packs a meaty wallop thanks to a holy trinity of finocchiona salami, hot coppa, and mortadella; the Sorrel Pesto is so deliciously pine nutty you'll wonder if there have actually been pine nuts in the pestos you've had before. Sweet, gooey fig meets salty, savory pecorino romano to make the Herbed Ham Cotto—a strong contender for Dué's best. The only "letdown" was that the Prosciutto, which an employee told us has been among their most-ordered, was sort of flavorless in comparison.

Cocktails tend toward the sweeter, syrup-ier side, but the "Perfect Negroni"

DUÉ FOCACCERIA
475 Fairview Ave. S., St. Paul
651-493-8735;
duefocacceria.com

really is a perfect negroni, and the Spaggiato, all effervescence and sparkle, drinks

like boozy La Croix. The Americano (no, not the coffee), made with Aperol, sweet vermouth, and soda, is both sugary and citrusy, a sweet-tea surrogate that says, "Why yes, this patio is lovely, but wouldn't you rather be on a porch, in a rocking chair, with your feet propped up on the railing?"

Well, maybe. But for now, Dué's patio is one of the most pleasant places you could be. "We have a pretty good idea of what we think the neighborhood wants," Eric Carrara told us before the restaurant opened, adding that he and his wife have lived a block or two away for almost a decade. We'd say he was right: Dué's been open a little over a month and hasn't yet had its grand opening, but it feels like it's been there forever. You'll look around to see you're surrounded by couples working through the Sunday Times crossword together, or friends who stopped in for a drink on their way home from work, or young families chatting while a very good dog curls up quietly at their feet, hoping he too might get to sample some transcendent focaccia.

My only complaint would be that it isn't in my neighborhood.

Maybe we can convince the Carraras that Tre or Quattro belongs in central Minneapolis. For now, at least those of us who don't call Mac-Groveland home can grab sandwiches to go. ☐

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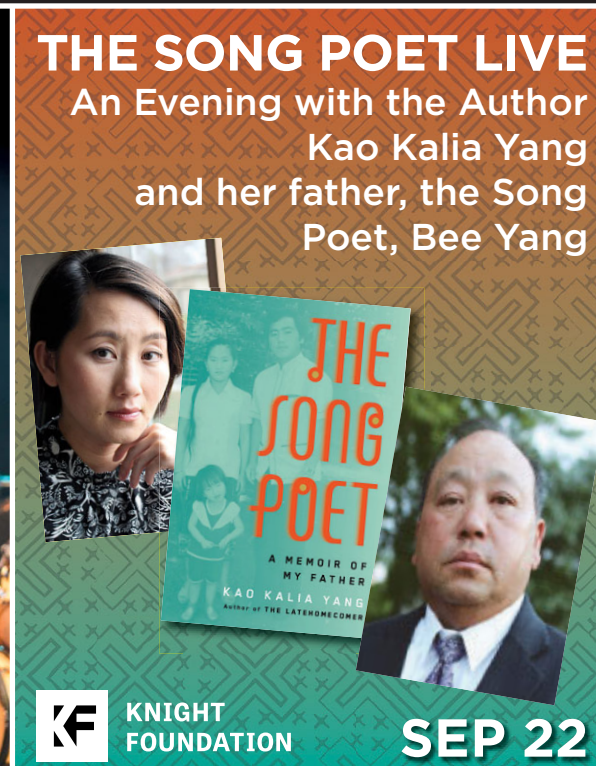
SEP 10-22

Classic Albums Live
presents
**Led Zeppelin
IV**



SEP 21

THE SONG POET LIVE
An Evening with the Author
Kao Kalia Yang
and her father, the Song
Poet, Bee Yang



SEP 22

KF KNIGHT
FOUNDATION



**BRIAN
MCKNIGHT
SOLO**

OCT 4



GAELYNN LEA
WHEELCHAIR SPORTS CAMP • BILLY MCLAUGHLIN • DJ FUNSIZE

OCT 5

KF KNIGHT
FOUNDATION **89.3**
the current



**FELIPE
ESPARZA**

OCT 11

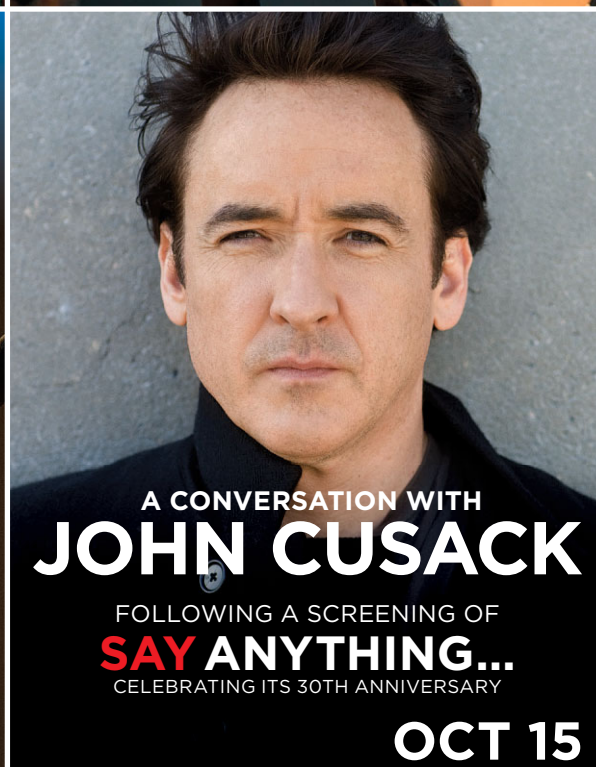
SUGAR SKULL!
A Día de los Muertos
Musical Adventure



OCT 4

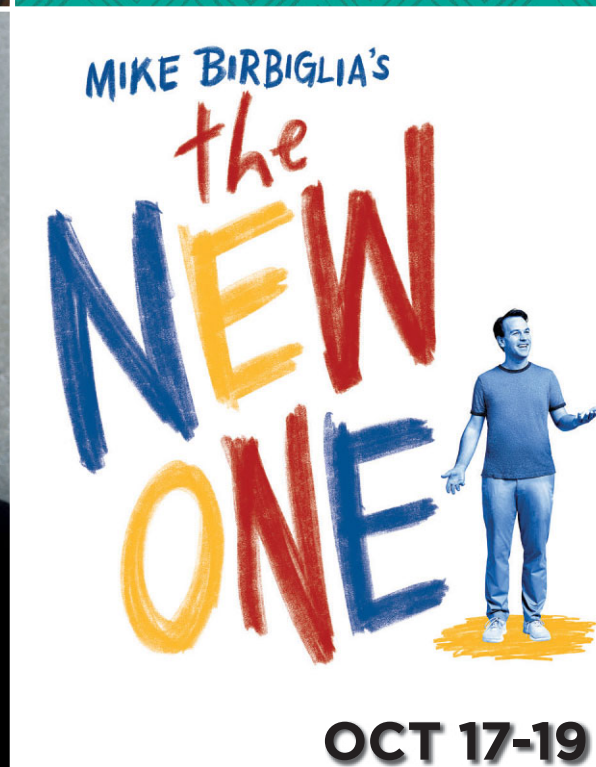
A CONVERSATION WITH
JOHN CUSACK

FOLLOWING A SCREENING OF
SAY ANYTHING...
CELEBRATING ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY



OCT 15

MIKE BIRBIGLIA'S
**the
NEW
ONE**

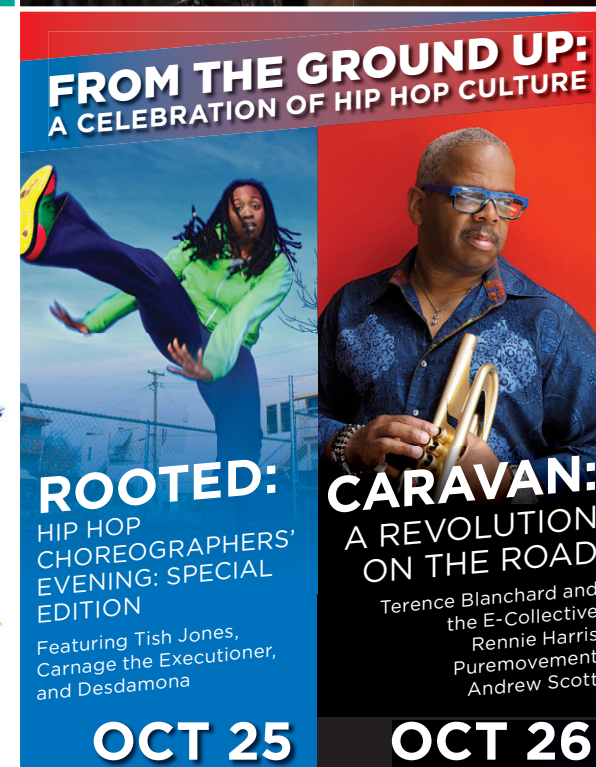


OCT 17-19

FROM THE GROUND UP:
A CELEBRATION OF HIP HOP CULTURE

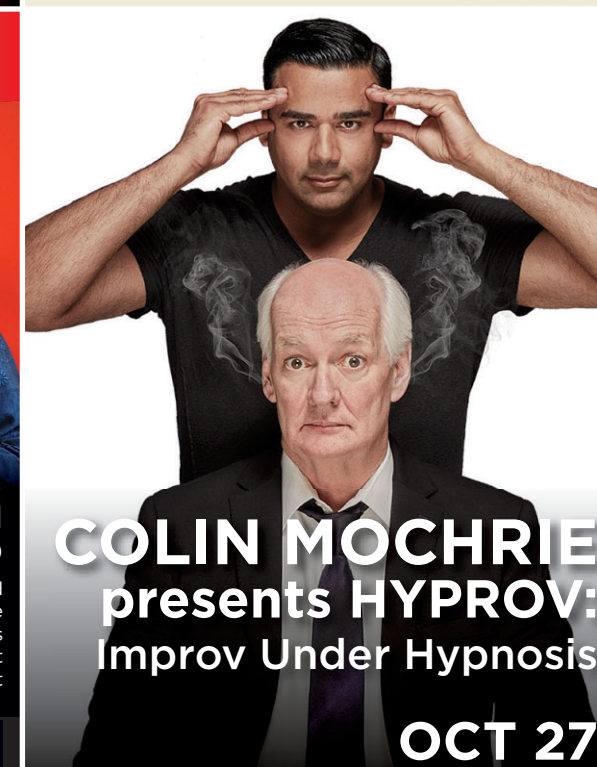
ROOTED:
HIP HOP
CHOREOGRAPHERS'
EVENING: SPECIAL
EDITION
Featuring Tish Jones,
Carnage the Executioner,
and Desdamona

CARAVAN:
A REVOLUTION
ON THE ROAD
Terence Blanchard and
the E-Collective
Rennie Harris
Puremovement
Andrew Scott



OCT 25 **OCT 26**

COLIN MOCHRIE
presents **HYPROV:**
Improv Under Hypnosis



OCT 27

Classic Albums Live
presents
**Pink Floyd
The Wall**




NOV 16

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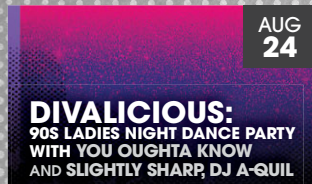
AUG 25



GLEN HANSARD
WITH OHMME
STATE THEATRE

SEPT 04

FIRST AVENUE MAINROOM



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90S LADIES NIGHT DANCE PARTY
WITH YOU OUGHTA KNOW
AND SLIGHTLY SHARP, DJ A-QUIL

AUG 24



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HORRORIST, DETROIT TECHNO
MILITIA, AND MORE

AUG 31



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SEPT 06



**HOLD YOUR LADY
TIGHT NIGHT**
COUNTRY WESTERN DANCE PARTY

SEPT 07



grandson
WITH nothing.nowhere.

SEPT 10



PENNYWISE
WITH ANTI-FLAG, H2O

SEPT 11



DESCENDENTS
WITH IRON CHIC, NO PARENTS

SEPT 12



NICK LOWE'S
QUALITY ROCK & ROLL REVUE
STARRING LOS STRAITJACKETS
WITH ESTHER ROSE

SEPT 13



K. FLAY
WITH HOUSES, DENNY

SEPT 17



POLO & PAN

SEPT 18

PALACE THEATRE



TYCHO
WITH POOLSIDE

SEPT 13



**BRITTANY
HOWARD
OF ALABAMA SHAKES**

SEPT 19



**BLACKBERRY
SMOKE**
WITH THE RECORD COMPANY

SEPT 26



ANDREW BIRD
WITH MADISON CUNNINGHAM

SEPT 27



**AN EVENING WITH
GOV'T MULE**

SEPT 28

FITZGERALD THEATER



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BANG! LIVE!**
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SEPT 07



**CRIMINAL
PODCAST -
LIVE SHOW**

SEPT 22



GOBLIN
PERFORMS DARIO ARGENTO'S
DEEP RED/PROFONDO ROSSO

OCT 10



TEGAN & SARA

OCT 13



**NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC
LIVE**
WITH FILIPE DEANDRADE

OCT 20

FINE LINE



BARNS COURTNEY
W/ THE HUNNA

SEPT 03




DOMINIC FIKE
W/ DEB NEVER

SEPT 04



HOT SNAKES
W/ DES DEMONAS, GREEN/BLUE

SEPT 06



MATTHEW SWEET
W/ THE USUAL THINGS

SEPT 08



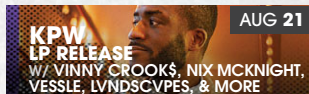
TITUS ANDRONICUS
W/ CONTROL TOP

SEPT 09



THE HU

SEPT 11



**KPW
LP RELEASE**
W/ VINNY CROOKS, NIX MCKNIGHT,
VESSE, LVNDSCVPES, & MORE

AUG 21



**NICK COSTA,
DELILAH FANG, PRIM
WOES, AND POORWILL**

AUG 25



**THE JACOB
JOLLIFF BAND**
W/ BLACK RIVER REVUE,
MAX GRAHAM (OF KIND COUNTRY)

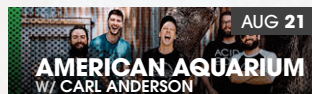
AUG 22



**MMYYKK, YON,
FRUITPUNCHLOVERBOY**
W/ KWEY, ZAK KHAN, DJ NEEKASODOPE

AUG 26

TURF CLUB



AMERICAN AQUARIUM
W/ CARL ANDERSON

AUG 21



LAURA NICHOLSON
W/ SAVANNAH SMITH

AUG 22



JAY PHILLIPS
W/ PIERRE DOUGLAS

AUG 23



VANSIRE
W/ SLEEPING JESUS, JULIA JULIAN

AUG 23



HOVVDY & LOMELDA
W/ NADINE

AUG 27



**NEW PRIMALS AND
PINK AVALANCHE**
W/ DIAMOND LAKE, WAGE FUTURE

AUG 24



JIG JAM
W/ SISTERTREE

AUG 27



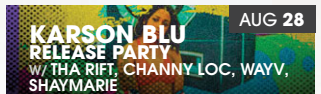
ALEX LAHEY
W/ KINGSBURY

AUG 28



VERSION 5 AND THE FAILSAFE
ALBUM RELEASE
W/ MY ZERO, WITHER THE TIDE

AUG 24



**KARSON BLU
RELEASE PARTY**
W/ THA RIFT, CHANNY LOC, WAYV,
SHAYMARIE

AUG 28

AROUND TOWN



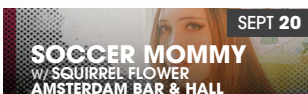
OF MONSTERS AND MEN
W/ LOWER DENS
SURLY BREWING FESTIVAL FIELD

SEPT 14



LESLIE STEVENS
W/ LAURA HUGO
Icehouse MPLS

SEPT 18



SOCCER MOMMY
W/ SQUIRREL FLOWER
AMSTERDAM BAR & HALL

SEPT 20



JONATHAN WILSON
Icehouse MPLS

SEPT 25



**BRENT COBB
AND THEM**
THE CEDAR CULTURAL CENTER

SEPT 28

A LIST

FRIDAY Games galore at 2D Con p.23

SATURDAY Makers and more on the North Side p. 24

SUNDAY Celebrate bees in Kieran's new space p. 25

The Giant Slide turns 50 this year at the Minnesota State Fair.



MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

WEDNESDAY 8.21

COMEDY

DULCÉ SLOAN

ACME COMEDY CO.

Dulce Sloan is probably most widely known as a correspondent for *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah*. A performer since childhood, she mostly concentrated on acting and improv before trying standup at the behest of friends. It was comedian Big Kenny, along with Sloan's mother, who finally convinced her to try it. "Kenny told me, 'You know how to tell a story, and I'm sure you can learn to tell jokes.'" She wound up taking his

standup comedy class, and has been a comedian ever since. "I usually talk about stuff that's happened to me," she says of her set. "In the beginning I was more observational, but I quit doing that when Big Kenny told me, 'As soon as you start talking about yourself, your comedy will reach a whole new level,' and that's what happened." Often, people she meets will express concern that they might end up in one of her bits. "I tell them, 'Don't worry, you haven't done anything that interesting.'" 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$20. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. **Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON**

THURSDAY 8.22

FESTIVAL

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

MINNESOTA STATE FAIRGROUNDS

"Our fair was founded on agriculture," says Minnesota State Fair spokesperson Danielle Dullinger. "While that's always going to be the heart of our fair... obviously we're not all farmers." The fair's mission today, continues Dullinger, is "telling people about the best of Minnesota." While the Great Minnesota Get-Together continues to innovate, it's that good old jump-in-the-wagon community spirit that's

kept it an unmissable attraction for millions of Minnesotans—and for people who arrive from across the country, fascinated by Instagram images of politically charged seed art and strange snacks stuck on sticks. New this year is a building in the North End (the neighborhood formerly known as Machinery Hill, for you long-timers), promising interactive "museum-quality exhibits" free with the price of admission. The exhibits will change every year, to keep you coming back... just in case the rotating malt flavors, fresh Minnesota

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 ►

CHICAGO



SEP 18
THROUGH
NOV 3

CHICAGO

BOOK BY FRED EBB AND BOB FOSSE
MUSIC BY JOHN KANDER

BASED ON THE PLAY BY MAURINE DALLAS WATKINS
SCRIPT ADAPTATION BY DAVID THOMPSON

DIRECTED BY PETER ROTHSTEIN
MUSIC DIRECTION BY DENISE PROSEK
CHOREOGRAPHY BY KELLI FOSTER WARDER

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BILL CAMERON

CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY ►

brews, and multiple stages of live music weren't already doing the trick for you. 6 a.m. to midnight; 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Labor Day. \$9-\$14. 1265 Snelling Ave. N., St. Paul; 651-288-4400. **Through September 2 —JAY GABLER**

DANCE INTERLACE

THE SOUTHERN THEATER

The intricate physicality of emotion as revealed through Israeli choreographer Ohad Naharin's movement methodology, known as Gaga, lives in the mind and body of Minneapolis dancer Berit Ahlgren. A practitioner and teacher of Gaga, Ahlgren had collaborated with Elena Hollenhorst on this evening of two dance works that focus on women's experiences with change, reinvention, and our connection to the earth. The cast of remarkable women performers includes Natalie Gorg, Laura Osterhaus, Mirabai Miller, Elayna Waxse, Kelli Miles, and Juliana Johnson, as well as Ahlgren and Hollenhorst. Expect a powerful evening of performance with expressive resonance. 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; 2 p.m. Saturday. \$12-\$24; matinee is pay-as-able. 1420 S. Washington Ave., Minneapolis; 612-326-1811. **Through Saturday —CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

FRIDAY 8.23

PARTY

HIPSHAKER TURNS 17

KITTY CAT KLUB

Hipshaker traditionally celebrates its b-day with a multi-day party, and this year is no different. The dance night showcases soul, from classic '60s Motown to deep cuts from the '80s. In addition to the usual crew—DJs Greg Waletski, George Rodriguez, and Brian Engel—they will be joined by a few other vinyl collectors, including Eric Silvenis (Detroit) and Dave Thorley (Berlin), spinning rare tunes. Expect cupcakes, giveaways, and a sweaty (but fashionable!) dance floor. 21+. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday. \$5. 315 14th Ave. SE, Minneapolis; 612-331-9800. **Through Saturday —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

TALK

RAMSEY AFTER DARK: MENTAL ILLNESS & THE VICTORIAN MIND

ALEXANDER RAMSEY HOUSE

Organized by the Minnesota Historical Society as part of its Ramsey After Dark series, "Mental Illness and the Victorian Mind" exposes a facet of everyday life that was once shamefully secreted

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 ►

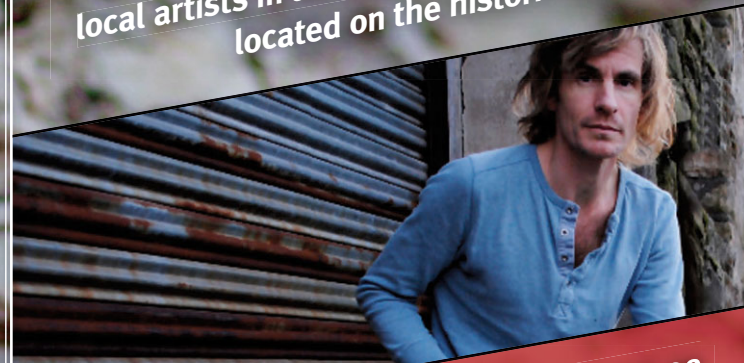


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FRIDAY

CONVENTION
2D CON 2019:
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Born of a LAN group named Digital Destruction in 2015, 2D Con is a gaming event that grows a bit each year, and has a focus on raising funds for charity. Highlights of the celebration include Indie Island, where gamers can explore releases from the local indie video game scene. Play a new game and chat up the makers. Over in the arcade, attendees can play old-school and newer releases to their heart's content, as all machines are quarter-free. Table-top fans can make new friends at various stations, and the cosplay fashion show features some spectacular looks. Other fun to be had includes an artists' marketplace, a concert headlined by a video game cover band, yoga classes, and even a spicy fanfic talk. This year's event will be raising funds for AbleGamers, an organization that provides adapted equipment free of charge for those with different needs. Find tickets and more info at www.2dcon.net, and score a free MetroTransit rides online as well. \$40; \$10 kids; \$100 VIP. 1300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis; 612-370-1234. **Through Sunday** —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER



OLD ABBOT PHOTOGRAPHY

CONTINUED FROM FRIDAY ►

away. In an era when the common course of treatment involved locking sufferers away in “insane asylums” for prolonged confinement, sessions of freezing-cold hydrotherapy, and experimental surgery, it's no wonder the notion of being branded mentally ill was a horrifying prospect. This insightful tour details the personal experiences of the Ramsey family, revealing that social prestige provided no immunity from the scourge of mental illness. Informed by newspaper clippings, letters, and journals, tour guides will discuss how one of Minnesota's most prominent families struggled to find help for both Alexander Ramsey's brother, Justus, and his son-in-law, Charles. In the sharing of their tale, the Minnesota Historical Society manages to not only empathize with past generations, but connect their experiences to those currently coping with the same afflictions. Find tickets and more at www.mnhs.org. 18+. 7 and 8:30 p.m. \$10-\$12. 265 Exchange St. S., St. Paul; 651-296-8760. —BRAD RICHASON

SATURDAY 8.24

PARTY

MYSPEACE EMO PROM

THE POURHOUSE

The nostalgia will run high at this Saturday's MySpace Emo Prom. Onstage, a live band (Taking Back

Emo) will play anthems from the dark era, covering bands like My Chemical Romance, the Used, Taking Back Sunday, and Fallout Boy. Bust out your best Hot Topic threads and blot on a cloud of black eyeshadow,

or go full scene and clip in some neon hair extensions, as an Emo King and Queen will be crowned tonight. Emo selfies (that you might want to delete later) are encouraged. 6:30 to 10 p.m. \$10. 10 Fifth St. S., Minneapolis; 612-843-2555. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

FESTIVAL

ITS WORLD: REIMAGINE
NORTH SIDE FESTIVAL

LOWRY AVENUE NORTH

This weekend, New Rules, First Avenue, and Juxtaposition Arts are coming together for a showcase featuring the best of the North Side. The afternoon will feature a variety of performances, activities, and things to see and do, all hosted by folks in the community. Stop by one of the makers' stations to try your hand at arm knitting, printmaking, or zine making. Explore a trippy interactive sound installation inside New Rules, an event and co-work space. More than 30 local artists will showcase their work, and musical groups playing sets include Blu Bone, FruitPunchLoveboy, Arlo, Yoni Light, Ipso Facto, and many more. Food trucks will offer eats throughout the day. 2 to 9 p.m. Free. The celebration takes place on Lowry Avenue North, between Penn and Morgan Avenues, Minneapolis. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

ART/MUSEUM

RETHINKING HISTORIES: WORKS
FROM MIA'S COLLECTION

MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ART

This survey of Mia's contemporary holdings rethinks the meaning of what's current and relevant in artmaking. Twelve artworks created in the past two decades, by nine artists, cast ideas about history into high political and cultural relief, challenging the status quo from a place of deep commitment to identity. Artists include Pao Houa Her, Chihiro Mori, Siah Armajani, Stan Douglas, Mickalene Thomas, and Pushpamala N. If you're not familiar with their talents, now is the time. Free. 2400 Third Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-870-3131. **Through January 19, 2020** —CAMILLE LEFEVRE

THEATER

PEER GYNT

NORWAY HOUSE

Impossible Salt, a music/theater troupe that brings inventiveness and wonder to its storytelling, re-imagines Henrik Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* in a collaboration with the Mesabi Symphony Orchestra. Impossible Salt's version offers a more concise telling of the five-act play, serving things up in a one-hour performance. With trolls, mischief, world travels, and grandiosity, follow



AWA MALLY



Kieran's new northeast Minneapolis space is the bees knees.

IMAGE COURTESY OF EVENT ORGANIZERS

Peer Gynt's madcap adventures in this darkly comic tale featuring original music by Erik Ostrom. The production includes returning Impossible Salt performers Sean Hansberry and Amber Lee Olivier, along with newcomers Gaia Mencagli and Stephanie Ruas. 1 and 7 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. \$20. 913 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-871-2211. **Through Sunday —SHEILA REGAN**

SUNDAY 8.25

BARHOPPING

POLLINATION FESTIVAL

KIERAN'S KITCHEN NORTHEAST

Until recently, common honeybees have been easy to take for granted, hovering about gardens and fields as lifelong contributors to the pollination cycle. That lack of appreciation began to change when scientists found that an alarming decline in honeybee colonies (dubbed Colony Collapse Disorder) was already having a devastating impact on global agricultural production. The Pollinator Friendly Alliance is determined to raise awareness of the issue and advocate for habitat

restoration, and has now organized the PolliNation Festival. The event offers a tremendous range of information related to the critical importance of protecting bees and other pollinators, whether by supporting sustainable farming practices, transforming standard turf lawns into bee-friendly neighborhoods, or planting backyard bee gardens. (It also coincides with the grand opening of Kieran's Kitchen Northeast.) This being a festival, there will be ample activities to choose from, including an expo of pollinator-inspired products amid 22 interactive pollinator displays. In addition to playing host, Kieran's will be serving up a delectable range of snacks, while event-exclusive beverages allow visitors to get their buzz on with a special honey-blended ale from Finnegan's and a honey-infused mead from Sociable Cider Werks. Live music will also be provided courtesy of Brian Just, Chris Koza, John Munson and Friends, the Everett Smithson Band, and Lucy Michelle with Dylan Hicks. Noon to 6 p.m. Free. 117 14th Ave. NE, Minneapolis; 612-354-2808. —BRAD RICHASON

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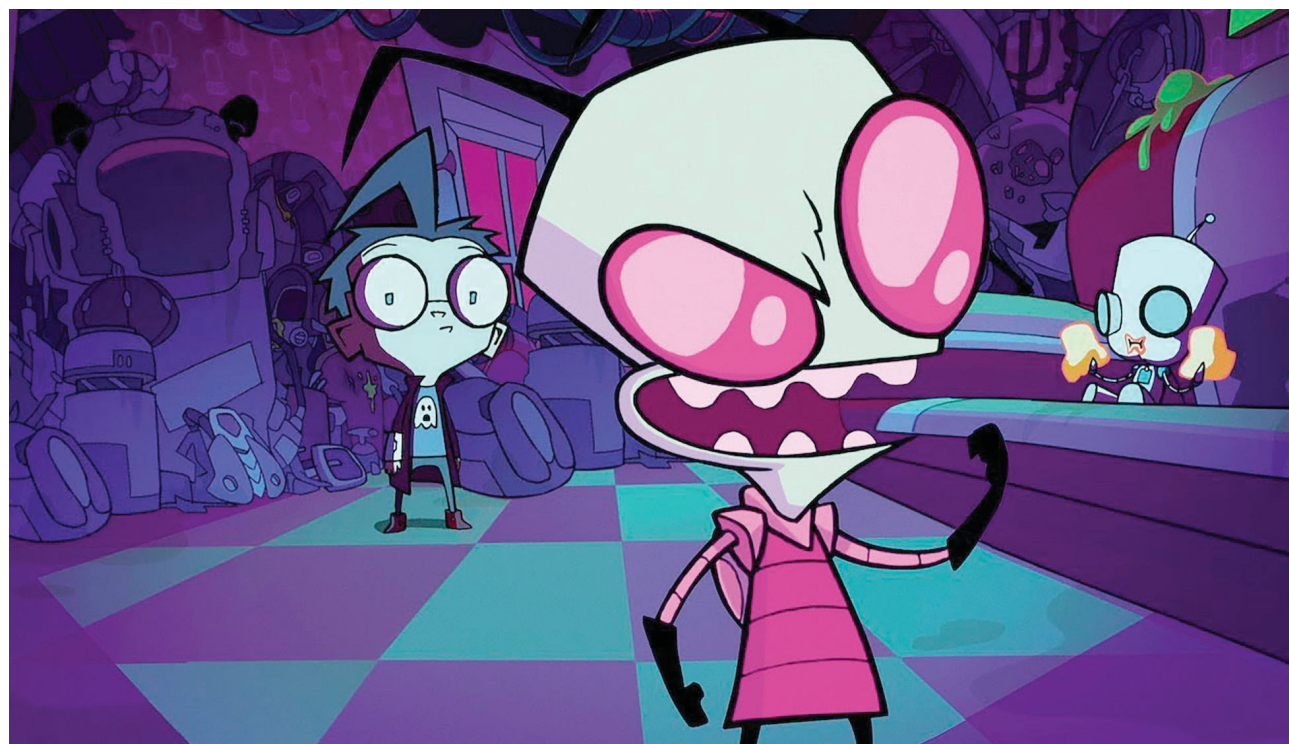
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ZIM CITY

Netflix makes another successful nostalgia
grab with *Invader Zim: Enter the Florpus*



NETFLIX

BY TONY LIBERA

Only a week after releasing *Rocko's Modern Life: Static Cling*, Netflix has revived another beloved Nickelodeon show: *Invader Zim*.

While its original run lasted less than two seasons, this strange, often nightmarish cartoon about a boy's ongoing battle with a maniacal space alien was special enough to merit a reboot almost 20 years after it went out of production. And like *Static Cling* before it, *Invader Zim: Enter the Florpus* proves more than just a rehash.

The film opens with our young hero, Dib Membrane (Andy Berman), out of sorts. The nefarious Zim (Richard Steven Horvitz) has disappeared, but ever-vigilant Dib suspects the little green man isn't gone for good. After an indeterminate time spent in front of the surveillance monitors in his room, Dib's neglected body has grown "smelly and useless," prompting Zim's reappearance. Turns out the alien was just hiding in the bathroom, waiting for Dib's physical decline to put a multiphase evil plan into action.

As the premise suggests, *Enter the Florpus* trades on the same cocktail of bizarreness mixed with abject stupidity that made the TV show such a wonder. *Invader Zim* was—and still is—one of the darkest cartoons to air on Nickelodeon, but its use of idiocy as a counterbalance ensured a ton of laughs. It's much the same here, but *Enter the Florpus* was clearly designed to be something like the ending the show never got. There's less focus on gags and episodic real-world satire and more energy put into making an eye-popping grand finale.

That's not a bad thing, just a little different. The result is a bit more accessible for new audiences, too, which can be a great thing (unless you're snooty about your cult classics).

Enter the Florpus hits plenty of the right notes and brings a welcome dose of nostalgia for fans of the show. The jokes that really land are laugh-out-loud funny, with the robot GIR (Rosearik Rikki Simons) cementing his legacy as one of fiction's greatest, dumbest characters. The visuals,

INVADER ZIM: ENTER THE FLORPUS

directed by Jenny Goldberg and Jake Wyatt
Netflix, out now

always ahead of their time, are stunning even on a small screen. They only get better as the movie goes on and Zim puts Earth on a collision course with other dimensions. And the sort-of annoyed mania Dib exhibits toward his oblivious human peers feels weirdly contemporary. *Enter the Florpus* doesn't skip a beat and, while leaving some wiggle room for future outings, gives the series a worthy and much-deserved conclusion.

So consider that back-to-back wins for Netflix. Constant reboots can get tiresome, but when you get quality, how can anyone complain? And as the credits roll on *Enter the Florpus*, you can't help but want more of the old magic.

Give us *Rocket Power*, Netflix. What's the *Doug* crew up to? Make *Aaahh!!! Real Monsters: The Movie*. And for the love of all that is good and pure in this world, reboot *Angry Beavers*! ☒

DR. STRANGELOVE

Theater Mu's take on race and romance is hot (and hilarious)



BY JAY GABLER

Hot Asian Doctor Husband is one of the sharpest and funniest rom-coms to hit Twin Cities stages in years, but anyone expecting Leah Nanako Winkler's world premiere to be a hot Asian *When Harry Met Sally...* will be surprised by the very first scene. Emi (Meghan Kreidler) is leaving her boyfriend Collin (Damian Leverett)—because he's white.

Don't call that "racist," Emi immediately says to Collin, and by extension to the audience. She's recently lost her Asian-American mother, we learn (her father was white), and it's left her with the feeling that she needs to be with an Asian man to feel true to her identity. If that Asian man also happens to be a hot doctor, well, all the better.

It's been only a year and a half since Theater Mu and Mixed Blood produced Winkler's *Two Mile Hollow*, but any wait is too long for another show by this bold, wildly entertaining playwright. Under the direction of Seonjae Kim, Mu brings Winkler's work once again to the Mixed

Blood stage with a confident energy that does justice both to her slashing satire and the tender heart beneath it.

In addition to the ongoing drama between Emi and Collin, there's a subplot involving a casual affair that's rapidly becoming less casual, involving Emi's BFF Leonard (Mikell Sapp, deploying irresistibly droll comic timing) and Veronica (a feisty and sympathetic Danielle Troiano). The show's greatest conceit, though, is also its most conceited character: the eponymous Hot Asian Doctor Husband himself.

Eric Sharp has reliably excelled in numerous roles on various local stages, but he's never had one this gloriously juicy, and he chomps on it with relish. The Hot Asian Doctor Husband, who doesn't even require a proper name, addresses the audience with a placid smile and a coolly logical perspective on relationships.

The pediatric oncologist excuses his infidelities by citing loose social standards regarding "side pieces," and by virtue of his profession: He literally saves children's lives. How can he be the bad guy? A straight-faced solo dance by Sharp, exuberantly choreographed by Magnolia Yang Sao Yia, is one

HOT ASIAN DOCTOR HUSBAND

Mixed Blood Theatre
1501 S. Fourth St., Minneapolis
651-789-1012; through September 1

of those unforgettable theatrical moments you just have to experience for yourself.

Winkler's challenge is that the show's onstage shenanigans work so extraordinarily well, the play stumbles in its pivot to reveal that the most crucial relationship is actually the one between Emi and her mother (Sun Mee Chomet), unseen until a climactic dream sequence. The themes of that final sequence run through the entire show, but the scene's tone is very different and it's introduced by a jarring plot development, ending the play on a deliberately unsettled note. Might that stylistic twist have been more effective if it wasn't quite so radical?

Regardless, *Hot Asian Doctor Husband* is a must-see: a moving and highly amusing play that squarely addresses the complex challenges of figuring out who you are in a relationship when society often doesn't seem to acknowledge who you are as a person. **G**



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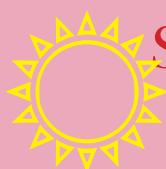
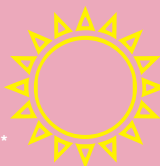
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ANDY BOTHWELL

BIG WOOP

Astronautalis spent 24 hours at the Gathering of the Juggalos, and all he got was this spiritual awakening

BY ANDY BOTHWELL

Jester hitched a ride out to the dusty Indiana campground the night before without a cent to his name, but he wasn't worried. He didn't need money—he knew his Ninjas would provide.

Sure enough, less than 24 hours later he was counting a stack of sweaty singles, arranging pennies into tidy little columns, and double-checking his math in mutters till he confirmed with a shout that he had it: \$210. The exact cost of one ticket to the Insane Clown Posse's annual music festival/bacchanal, the Gathering of the Juggalos.

Dumbfounded, I stopped him and asked, "So, strangers just gave you all that money so you could get in?" He paused, almost offended, and replied, "I have been to 10 Gatherings, and every time, I've helped at least two Ninjas get in. No one gave me that money. Karma gave me that money. I earned my place. I belong here." Instantly he turned on his heel like a drill sergeant and stomped off toward the gate, raising his arms to the sky and shouting "WOOP WOOP!" to the heavens.

I didn't know what to expect when I agreed to play the Gathering of the Juggalos, but I certainly didn't think I would be getting schooled on Buddhist philosophy from a sweaty guy in a Realtree Camo hat.

Now in its 20th year, the Gathering has changed venues nine times and seen wild swings in attendance. It's been tear-gassed by police and blocked by several city councils. It's been the focus of countless snarky documentaries and more than one SNL skit. And yet, the Gathering keeps going where most festivals have failed. Fyre Fest couldn't make it a day without descending into a Hironymous Bosch nightmare, and Woodstock 50 couldn't even make it past presale. Sasquatch disappeared into the woods, Fuck Yeah Fest! never sold enough tickets to match the hype, and even the legendary All Tomorrow's Parties went out in a blaze of unpaid artists.

Totally independent, with zero corporate sponsors, the Gathering is still organized and curated by ICP themselves, along with Psychopathic Records boss Jumpsteady, and every year they assemble the most

insane and unique lineup of any festival in America—I watched Morris Day & the Time and GWAR back to back.

To know of the Gathering is to have formed an opinion of the Gathering, whether you've been there or not. To outsiders, it can be the butt of an endless joke: people in clown makeup spraying each other with Faygo Red in a four-day fever dream of drugs, sexism, semi-pro-wrestling, and "flyover state" music. For the Juggalos it's Coachella, Shangri-La, the Hajj, a family reunion, and, yes, semi-pro-wrestling, all crammed into some unfashionable campground. The truth is somewhere in between, and somehow, more bizarre and beautiful.

There's no shortage of clown makeup, and in less than 24 hours I heard the directive "Show me your butt!" close to 100 times. But more astonishing were the actual people behind the face paint and the megaphones ordering me to... well... you know... show them things. I made small talk with a dusty-looking giant in a bathrobe and boxer shorts who offered me money to help me get in early in our conversation. I met Nanaho, from the Kanagawa Prefecture in Japan, wearing beautiful flowing kimonos and clown makeup, who explained to me she has taken six trips to America, all to see ICP, only after having seen a Juggalo character on Grand Theft Auto 5.

I heard about several folks who'd travelled from Australia, and I saw a French flag inscribed with the phrase "Juggalos of France." A young black guy wore a shirt



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Friday, August 30 & Saturday, August 31 Produced by Upoar Performing Arts in collaboration with Pangea World MOTHER GOOSE'S BEDTIME STORIES 2 YEAR CELEBRATION! Doors 7pm • Show: 8pm / All Ages / Seated / Sliding Scale: \$10- 35	Saturday, September 7 Presented by Harbi as part of The Cedar Artist Collective SOMALI TRADITIONAL NIGHT featuring Thunder Band, Caasho Buranburtooy, and The Somali Museum Dance Troupe Doors 9pm / Show 9:30pm / Free

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MUSIC

showing the Great Milenko (a Clown of note in the ICP universe) burning the Confederate flag. I saw Abir, in a hijab, walking across the mainstage field with a crew of friends in various states of undress and body paint. When I asked her how she got into this scene, she shrugged and said, “Reggie from the laundromat I work at, he is into them, and now I’m into them.”

Public nudity, wanton sexuality, and heavy drug use are all rampant, but perhaps the most shocking thing I saw at the Gathering was... families. Regular old moms and dads, crushing some beers while their kids run around eating corn dogs and listening to Oujia Macc rap “Body Drop.”

“We have seven kids between us,” said Elizabeth West, pointing to her husband, “and all of them are Juggalittles.” What made her introduce her children to this world? She laughed. “[Juggalos] are the kindest group of people... in the most fucked-up way.”

That kindness is tangible at the Gathering. I saw strangers share food and money, and welcome each other into their campgrounds. I’ve never been in such a strange, diverse, and antagonistic crowd of people, many wasted on every manner of intoxicant, but I didn’t see a single fight.

They fucked with you, they shouted at you through megaphones, but it never felt mean. It felt all in good fun—as long as you kept your own sense of humor, of course, and came back with a barb in response. Whatever your trip, no matter the color of your freak flag, everyone seemed welcome.

You think anyone will bat an eye at your weird shit after seeing a woman commanding the leashed clown she’s walking on all fours to suck her toes in the middle of the dirt road? This is a forest full of weirdoes who have rejected, or been rejected by, their communities. So they’ve come together to form their own community (which the FBI still classifies as a gang). It should come as no surprise that they’re so willing to live and let live the way they do. Acceptance comes naturally to a group of outcasts who still remember what it feels like to be cast out.

The Juggalos make easy targets: They paint their faces, they guzzle Faygo, they love a band that doesn’t understand how magnets work. But for 20 years they have managed to organize, fund, and support a festival devoted to everything they love, filled with people from all over they world.

Looking back on my 24 hours at the Gathering, I can’t help but reflect on the communities I’ve belonged to and their struggles with organization, funding, and support. Where the hell is our music festival celebrating its 20th year? And, if we ever did get something going and manage to keep it going for two decades, would I be able to show up there without a penny to my name, and trust that everyone would chip in to buy me a ticket? ☞

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- 8.29 BURLESQUE 8PM
- 8.30 YACHT ROCK TRIBUTE 9PM
- 8.31 UPTOWN DANCE PARTY 9PM

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- 9.6 MAE SIMPSON
- 9.8 MURPHY'S LAW (NYHC)
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♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19): It's not cost-efficient to recycle plastic. Sorting and processing the used materials to make them available for fresh stuff is at least as expensive as creating new plastic items from scratch. On the other hand, sending used plastic to a recycling center makes it far less likely that it will end up in the oceans and waterways, harming living creatures. So in this case, the short-term financial argument in favor of recycling is insubstantial, whereas the moral argument is strong. I invite you to apply a similar perspective to your upcoming decisions.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20): African American slaves suffered many horrendous deprivations. For example, it was illegal for them to learn to read. Their oppressors feared that educated slaves would be better equipped to agitate for freedom, and took extreme measures to keep them illiterate. Frederick Douglass was one slave who managed to beat the ban. As he secretly mastered the art of reading and writing, he came upon literature that ultimately emboldened him to escape his "owners" and flee to safety. He became one of the nineteenth century's most powerful abolitionists, producing reams of influential writing and speeches. I propose that we make Douglass your inspiring role model for the coming months. I think you're ready to break the hold of a certain curse—and go on to achieve a gritty success that the curse had prevented you from accomplishing.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20): For 25 years, businessman Don Thompson worked for the McDonald's fast food company, including three years as its CEO. During that time, he oversaw the sale and consumption of millions of hamburgers. But in 2015, he left McDonald's and became part of Beyond Meat, a company that sells vegan alternatives to meat. I could see you undergoing an equally dramatic shift in the coming months, Gemini: a transition into a new role that resembles but is also very different from a role you've been playing. I urge you to step up your fantasies about what that change might entail.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22): "The learning process is something you can incite, literally incite, like a riot," wrote author Audre Lorde. As an astrologer I would add this nuance: Although what Lourde says is true, some phases of your life are more favorable than others to seek deep and rapid education. For example, the coming weeks will bring you especially rich teachings if you incite the learning process now.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The American idiom "stay in your lane" has come to mean "mind your own business," and usually has a pejorative sense. But I'd like to expand it and soften it for your use in the coming weeks. Let's define it as meaning "stick to what you're good at and know about" or "don't try to operate outside your area of expertise" or "express yourself in ways that you have earned the right to do." Author Zadie Smith says that this is good advice for writers. "You have to work out what it is you can't do, obscure it, and focus on what works," she attests. Apply that counsel to your own sphere or field, Leo.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Yisrael Kristal was a Polish Jew born under the sign of Virgo in 1903. His father was a scholar of the Torah, and he began studying Judaism and learning Hebrew at age three. He lived a long life and had many adventures, working as a candle-maker and a candy-maker. When the Red Army liberated the Auschwitz concentration camp in 1945, Kristal emerged as one of the survivors. He went on to live to the age of 113. Because of the chaos of World War I, he had never gotten to do his bar mitzvah when he'd turned thirteen. So he did it much later, in his old age. I foresee a comparable event coming up soon in your life, Virgo. You will claim a reward or observe a milestone or collect a blessing you weren't able to enjoy earlier.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Sailors have used compasses to navigate since the 11th century. But that tool wasn't enough to guide them. A thorough knowledge of the night sky's stars was a crucial aid. Skill at reading the ever-changing ocean currents always proved valuable. Another helpful trick was to take birds on the ships as collaborators. While at sea, if the birds flew off and returned, the sailors knew there was no land close by. If the birds didn't return, chances were good that land was near. I bring this to your attention, Libra, because I think it's an excellent time to gather a number of different navigational tools for your upcoming quest. One won't be enough.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): What do you want from the allies who aren't your lovers? What feelings do you most enjoy while you're in the company of your interesting, non-romantic companions? For instance, maybe you like to be respected and appreciated. Or perhaps what's most important to you is to experience the fun of being challenged and stimulated. Maybe your favorite feeling is the spirit of collaboration and comradeship. Or maybe all of the above. In any case, Scorpio, I urge you to get clear about what you want—and then make it your priority to foster it. In the coming weeks, you'll have the power to generate an abundance of your favorite kind of non-sexual togetherness.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): As the CEO of the clothes company Zappos, Sagittarius entrepreneur Tony Hsieh is worth almost a billion dollars. If he chose, he could live in a mansion by the sea. Yet his home is a 200-square-foot, \$46,000 trailer in Las Vegas, where he also keeps his pet alpaca. To be clear, he owns the entire trailer park, which consists of 30 other trailers, all of which are immaculate hotbeds of high-tech media technology where interesting people live. He loves the community he has created, which is more important to him than status and privilege. "For me, experiences are more meaningful than stuff," he says. "I have way more experiences here." I'd love to see you reaffirm your commitment to priorities like his in the coming weeks, Sagittarius. It'll be a favorable time to do so.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Medical researcher Jonas Salk developed a successful polio vaccine, so he had a strong rational mind. Here's how he described his relationship with his non-rational way of knowing. He said, "It is always with excitement that I wake up in the morning wondering what my intuition will toss up to me, like gifts from the sea. I work with it and rely on it. It's my partner." I bring this up, Capricorn, because the coming weeks will be a favorable time to celebrate and cultivate your own intuition. You may generate amazing results as you learn to trust it more and figure out how to deepen your relationship with it.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Aquarian environmentalist Edward Abbey once formulated a concise list of his requirements for living well. "One must be reasonable in one's demands on life," he wrote. "For myself, all that I ask is: 1. accurate information; 2. coherent knowledge; 3. deep understanding; 4. infinite loving wisdom; 5. no more kidney stones, please." According to my analysis of the astrological omens, now would be an excellent time for you to create your own tally of the Five Crucial Provisions. Be bold and precise as you inform life about your needs.

♈ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "We may be surprised at whom God sends to answer our prayers," wrote author Janette Oke. I suspect that observation will apply to you in the coming weeks. If you're an atheist or agnostic, I'll rephrase her formulation for you: "We may be surprised at whom Life sends to answer our entreaties." There's only one important thing you have to do to cooperate with this experience: Set aside your expectations about how help and blessings might appear.

CROSSWORD

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65					66						67			

EDGE OF THE WORLD

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1 ____ Vecchio
(Firenze bridge)
- 6 Iraq city on the Tigris
- 11 Quick shut eye
- 14 Get a goal
- 15 Westernmost of the Lesser Antilles
- 16 "Out of the Blue" rock group
- 17 Feminist/activist hashtag starting in 2014
- 19 Grp. that gives people a puncher's chance
- 20 Contract part
- 21 "The Voyage of the Dawn ____" (C.S. Lewis book)
- 23 Ian of "Time Bandits"
- 24 Winnings
- 27 Hand sanitizer target
- 28 The turf of surf and turf
- 30 Grammy-winning band for the song "Wax Simulacra"
- 33 Maybe yes, maybe no
- 35 When doubled, Robert Kennedy's assassin
- 36 Disneyland attraction
- 40 Fire starters
- 41 Res ____ loquiter
- 42 "Mad Men" star
- Hendricks
- 44 Western wolves
- 49 Speedway rival
- 50 Army ranks: Abbr.
- 52 Mistreat

- 53 Barcelona's coach Valverde
- 56 Spain's peninsula
- 58 Louis XV, e.g.
- 59 Band with the power ballad "Sister Christian"
- 62 Nothin' at all
- 63 Spoken
- 64 Will ____ (special agent in Karin Slaughter stories)
- 65 Takes too much
- 66 Lav sign
- 67 Networks: Abbr.


Down

- 1 Pumps (up)
- 2 Forest feline
- 3 Drawer-opening button
- 4 Emotional shock
- 5 Some hydroelectricity sources?
- 6 Big trap
- 7 Cortes's gold
- 8 South Carolina fort
- 9 Company that provides the Jump electric scooters and bikes
- 10 Turkeys can be found here
- 11 Home to the India Gate and the Lotus Temple
- 12 Big Oilers fan, likely
- 13 Pauper
- 18 Chair umpire's call
- 22 Ancient marketplace
- 25 Radio letters

- 26 Sending to the canvas
- 29 Fun, so to speak
- 31 W-2 IDs
- 32 Crucial
- 34 Wild party
- 36 Earth is an oblate one
- 37 Winter root vegetables
- 38 Take a stand?
- 39 "____ the crack of dawn"
- 40 Fast-paced musical piece
- 43 Figure with equal angles
- 45 Twisted author
- 46 Canal boats
- 47 Point in the right direction
- 48 Street knowledge
- 51 Man with a title
- 54 Challenge
- 55 Kitchen wall material
- 57 Completely mad
- 60 Lean-to
- 61 Jets sometimes make them: Abbr.


Last Week's Answer

F	I	L	A		H	A	N	G		W	E	D	S				
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J	E	T	E		R	I	N	G		R	E	S	T				



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SAVAGE LOVE

Quickies

What's the word for a male unicorn?

I took Molly with my best bud. We wound up cuddling and telling each other everything. We didn't mess around—we're both straight guys—but one of the things I told him is that I would much rather eat pussy than fuck, and one of the things he told me is that he's not at all into eating pussy and pretty much only likes to fuck. I think we'd make a great team: We're both good-looking, athletic dudes and we should find a woman who loves to have her pussy eaten and loves to get fucked.

I would go down on her and get her going (and coming), then he steps in and dicks her down (and gets her off one last time). What say you?



Dan Savage

Pegasus," various terms I've seen people use. WTF, it shouldn't require a whole line in my profile to run through all the terms! As the person who famously crowdsourced "pegging," I was hoping you could work your magic and get everyone to agree on a non-binary term that works for all sexual identities.

HAVING ONE
RELIABLE NAME

What's wrong with "unicorn"? Unicorns—the mythical beasts—can be female, male, or, I suppose, genderless or genderfluid. They can be

anything we want them to be, HORN, since we made them up. And while the term first came into use to describe bi women who weren't just open to having sex with an established, opposite-sex couple, but open to committing to a couple and forming a poly triad, there's no reason men and/or nonbinary folks who are interested in the same—hooking up with and forming relationships with established couples—couldn't identify as unicorns, too. But are you a unicorn? People began to call those bi women "unicorns" because they were hard to find and everyone, it seemed, was looking for one. People interested in simply playing with couples aren't anywhere near as hard to find.

I've recently begun to experiment with a few kinky friends. One of them is a voyeur who is super into bukkake. I'd be open to a group bukkake scene, but how do I avoid contracting an STI?

ANONYMOUS ASSISTANT

"On me, not in me" was a safe-sex message crafted in the earliest, darkest, most terrifying days of the AIDS Crisis—and a bukkake scene, which involves multiple men ejaculating on one person, is all about "on me," which makes it relatively safe. So long as you're careful not to get anyone's come in your eyes (ocular gonorrhea, syphilis, and chlamydia are all things) or on your hole(s), you won't have anything to worry about.

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ULTIMATE PACKAGE DEAL

I would say, "FUCK YES!" if I were a woman, UPD, which I'm not. And while I can't promise you every woman will have the same reaction I did, some women most definitely will.

I'm a male in my late 50s. I went to a urologist for my erection problem, which was helped with ED medication. But orgasms are very hard to achieve, and the ED medication does not seem to make orgasms any easier to have. My girlfriend appreciates the erections, but I would also like to climax. This is very frustrating. Any advice?

PILLS INHIBITING LUSTY LOADS

Tits and dicks both sag with age, which is why push-up bras and push-up pills were invented. And while ED meds do make it easier for a guy to get an erection, they can also make it more difficult for a guy to climax. Upside: You last longer. Downside: You may sometimes have sex without climaxing. Or you can shift your perspective and try to see this downside as a secret upside: Sometimes you get to enjoy sex without climaxing—and next time, when you do climax, you'll blow a bigger load.

I am a bisexual man who's active in the sex-positive community, and I love playing with couples. I was updating my Feeld profile to reflect this desire, but I realized there's no consistent term for a male unicorn. So I listed "Male/Stag/Stallion/Minotaur/

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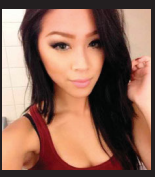
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